IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 18-20 as indicated below.

The listing of claims below will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) A method for arranging an air duct inside a vehicle's hollow half-axle having a solid-end for connecting a rotary pneumatic coupling for a wheel tire on an end of said half-axle to a tire inflation pressure control system located in a non-rotary part of the vehicle, said method comprising the steps of:

a) drilling holes in the end of the axle and in an intermediate side point of the axle by:

drilling a coaxial hole in the axle end;

drilling a cross hole in the middle zone of the axle tube;

making a first centered thread in the coaxial hole in the axle end; and

making a second thread in the cross hole in the middle zone of the axle tube;

b) laying a polyamide air tube between both drilled holes by:

protecting the polyamide tube with an hexagonal polyamide tube in the solid portion of the axle;

passing a polyamide air tube inside a straight copper pipe;

passing a loop through the cross hole;

inserting the straight copper pipe containing the polyamide air tube through the first threaded hole such that ~~it~~ the polyamide air tube is engaged by the loop;

pulling the loop outwards, drawing the polyamide air tube outwards through the cross hole; and

pulling the copper pipe out through the coaxial hole, taking care not to remove the polyamide air tube ~~it~~ housed in said copper pipe;

c) placing a connector in said cross hole and connecting said connector to an end of said polyamide air tube;

d) connecting the end of this polyamide air tube to ~~the~~ an end of a Teflon tube by means of a straight first connector;

e) passing the other end of the Teflon tube through said coaxial hole and connecting said other end of the Teflon tube to an inner axle end of the rotary pneumatic coupling by screwing said other end of the Teflon tube into one of said holes drilled in the axle end;

f) placing a protective spring around said first connector;

g) placing a second coupling in the first thread, turning the whole assembly to tighten it;

h) cutting the Teflon tube, leaving an end projecting out of the coaxial hole;

i) placing a washer, a second connector and a steel nipple in the cross hole;

j) turning the spring to abut against the first connector;

k) tightening the coupling against the axle; and

i) connecting the pneumatic coupling system to said connector by:

connecting the pipe to the connector; and

coupling the inner end of the shaft of the rotary pneumatic coupling by screwing the coupling into the first hole.

19. (Currently Amended) A method for arranging a pressurized air duct inside a vehicle's hollow half-axle having a hollow-end, for connecting a rotary pneumatic coupling for a wheel tire on an end of said half-axle to a tire inflation pressure control system located in a non-rotary part of the vehicle, said method comprising the steps of:

making a first hole in ~~the~~ a rear portion of the axle and in the middle of the axle using a magnetic drilling machine;

laying an air tube between both holes by:

passing a long tube from end to end inside the axle;

inserting an unthreaded end of a Teflon tube inside the long tube; and

screwing a short tube threaded end into the Teflon tube;

placing ~~an internal connector~~ in said first hole an internal connector having a threaded orifice and connecting said connector to an end of said air tube;

pushing said internal connector and said air tube end inwards such that the connector's threaded orifice is directed towards the first hole;

inserting a stem through the first hole;

screwing said stem into ~~an~~ the threaded orifice of the connector;

placing a straight connector in the stem;

manually screwing the straight connector into the internal connector;

removing the stem and tightening a lock nut until the internal connector is secured against the axle inner wall;

cutting the Teflon tube, leaving an end projecting out of the the axle end;

protecting the Teflon tube with helical tape;

passing the other end of the air tube through said axle end and connecting said other end of the air tube to the inner axle end of the rotary pneumatic coupling by screwing said other end of the air tube into the axle end; and

connecting the coupling and inserting the coupling to abut against a plug in the axle end;

drilling the plug with a drill bit, using two orifices provided in the coupling as a guide;

riveting the coupling with the two orifices;

connecting the pneumatic coupling to the connector; and

coupling the inner end of the shaft of the rotary pneumatic coupling by screwing ~~it~~ the coupling into the first hole.

20. (Currently Amended) A method for arranging a pressurized air duct inside a half-axle having a hollow-end closed by an internal reinforcement, said method comprising the steps of:

drilling a first hole through the reinforcement and a second hole in an intermediate side point of the axle;

placing a rivet with a first thread in an end plug of said axle end and riveting it ;

making a second thread in the rear portion of the axle;

laying an air tube between both holes;

protecting a Teflon tube with a hexagonal tube in the axle reinforcement;

passing a second tube, which will be the air duct inside the axle, inside a straight copper pipe;

placing a loop through the second hole;

inserting the straight copper pipe containing the air duct tube through the first threaded hole such that ~~it~~ the air duct tube is engaged by the loop;

pulling the loop outwards, drawing the air duct tube outwards through the second hole;

pulling the copper pipe out through the first hole, taking care not to remove the air duct tube ~~it~~ housed in said copper pipe;

placing a connector in said second hole and connecting said connector to an end of said air duct tube;

passing the other end of the air duct tube through said hole drilled in the end of the axle and connecting said other end of the air duct tube to the inner axle end of ~~the~~ a rotary pneumatic coupling by screwing said other end of the air duct tube into said first hole;

joining the air duct tube end to the ~~Teflon~~ air duct tube end by means of a straight connector;

placing a protective spring around this straight connector;

placing ~~the~~ a coupling in the thread and turning the coupling to tighten the coupling;

cutting the ~~Teflon~~ air duct tube, leaving an end projecting out of the first hole;

placing a washer, a second connector and a steel nipple in the second hole;

turning a spring to abut against the second connector;

connecting the pneumatic coupling system to said second connector;

tightening the pneumatic coupling against the axle;

connecting the pipe to the second connector; and

coupling the inner end of the shaft of ~~a~~ the rotary pneumatic coupling by screwing the pneumatic coupling into the first hole.

21. (Canceled)